

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-13 DHA-02 /086 W

-----010913 087896 /12

P R 010820Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6543

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP, LY, XF

SUBJECT: FURTHER MARCOS COMMENT ON MINDANAO

REF: (A) MANILA 2944; (B) MANILA 3003

1. IN MARCH 1 SPEECH AT PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATION, PRESIDENT MARCOS AGAIN DESCRIBED STATUS OF MINDANAO NEGOTIATIONS. FOR MOST PART SPEECH COVERED SAME GROUND REPORTED REF A, WITH FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONS:

A) MARCOS SAID SOLE OBSTACLE TO NEGOTIATIONS IS POSITION OF MNLF, JUST CONVEYED TO HIM VIA CABLE FROM QADHAFI, THAT UNLESS PROVINCES OF PALAWAN, SOUTH COTABATO AND DAVAO SUR ARE INCLUDED IN AUTONOMOUS REGION, "FIGHTING MAY BE RESUMED." MARCOS PROFESSED TO BELIEVE THIS IS "NEGOTIATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITION." HE CALLED ON LIBYANS AND ISLAMIC CONFERENCE TO JOIN GOP NOW IN DEMONSTRATING "HIGHEST FORM OF STATESMANSHIP" TO ACHIEVE REGIONAL AUTONOMY WITHOUT VIOLATING PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION (I.E. WITH PLEBISCITE). HE EXPRESSED FAITH IN "SINCERITY" OF QADHAFI AND ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND OPTIMISM THAT

"FINAL SETTLEMENT" WILL BE REACHED.

B) MARCOS THEN "REVEALED" THAT IN ORDER TO ALLOW FREE DISCUSSION AND ACHIEVE FAIR VOTE IN MARCH 17 PLEBISCITE HE HAS ORDERED SUSPENSION OF MARTIAL LAW IN 13 PROVINCES INVOLVED. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS "PERSONAL OPINION" THAT 10 PROVINCES OF REGIONS IX AND XII SHOULD BE UNIFIED TO CREATE NEW REGION (I.E. WITHOUT THREE PROVINCES INCLUSION OF WHICH MNLF IS DEMANDING).

C) AS APPARENT AFTERTHOUGHT, MARCOS STATED THAT "IF NO OTHER RECOURSE IF AVAILABLE" MRS. MARCOS WILL RETURN TO LIBYA ON SECOND MISSION TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT.

2. MARCOS PREFACED DISCUSSION MINDANAO BY NOTING CADETS PROBABLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE ANSWER TO QUESTION, "WILL YOU BE GRADUATING INTO A WAR IN MINDANAO?" JUDGING FROM TV COVERAGE, CADETS EXPRESSED LITTLE REACTION TO SPEECH EXCEPT WHEN PRESIDENT INTERRUPTED HIMSELF TO SIGN DECREE RAISING THEIR BASE PAY FROM P390 TO P 470 PER MONTH, AT WHICH POINT THEY BURST INTO THUNDEROUS APPALUSE.

3. COMMENT: MARCOS CONTINUES TO CONVEY PUBLIC IMPRESSION, WHICH WE NOW KNOW ERRONEOUS, THAT LIBYANS ARE MERELY COMMUNICATING AND NOT SUPPORTING MNLF DEMANDS.
SULLIVAN

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